

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner indicated that claim 9 is allowable. Claim 9 was dependent upon claims 1, 4, 7 and 8. Claim 1 has been amended to include therein the elements of claims 4, 7, 8 and 9, whereby claim 1 is now claim 9 in independent form, and is allowable.

Remaining claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 10-12 are all dependent upon claim 1, and they are allowable as well.

New claim 13 is similar in scope to amended claim 1, with some elements in what was original claim 1 slightly broader in scope. Claim 13 includes unamended versions of the elements of dependent claims 4, 7, 8 and 9. As claim 9 was allowable, it is submitted that claim 13 is allowable for the same reason.

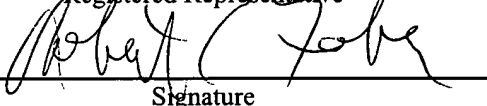
The Office Action included a rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), of claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), and of claims 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a). With the amendment of claim 1, it is submitted that the rejections of any of these claims remaining in the application has been rendered moot by making the claims dependent upon claim 1. No further argument is submitted as to those claims.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the remaining claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 10-13 are allowable.

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July 30, 2004

Date of Signature

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Respectfully submitted,


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